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Galtonia candicans, which is reproduced on the front page of the cover, is a flowering plant named in honour of Sir Francis Galton in 1880 by Professor J. Decaisne of the Paris Museum of Natural History

PERIODICALS

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF HUMAN GENETICS

December, 1963, Vol. 15, No. 4.

Variation in Neonatal Death Rate and Birth Weight in the United States and Possible Relations to Environmental Radiation, Geology and Altitude by D. GRAHN and J. KRATCHMAN.

By comparing vital statistics data for different geographical areas, the authors show that birth weight fell and neonatal mortality rose with increasing altitude. In the six provinces studied, the quantity of uranium ore or presence of helium reserves was probably unassociated with neonatal mortality. Either increased cosmic ray intensity or decreased oxygen partial pressure could be involved in the altitude effect. Since there was no difference in neonatal deaths due to genetically determined conditions, for instance many of those in the category of congenital malformations, at high or low altitudes, radiation effects were probably not large. The authors are left with the conclusion that, in mountainous states hypoxia leads to reduced foetal growth and subsequently an increased neonatal death rate.

Determination of Phenotypes in the Human Group-specific Component (Gc) System by Starch Gel Electrophoresis by W. CAREY PARKER, H. CLEVE and A. G. BEARN.

This method of studying inherited variations in the Gc system has certain advantages over the original method of immuno-electrophoresis such as the simultaneous analysis of numerous samples, reduction in overall time and easier comparison of electrophoretic mobilities in starch gel. But both techniques are likely to be needed in experiments designed to discover the biological role of the Gc system, at present unknown.

Two Genetic Variants of the Group Specific Component of Human Serum: Gc Chippewa and Gc Aborigine by H. CLEVE, *et al.*

Family studies show these two new variants in the Gc system, one occurring in a group of Chippewa Indians, the other in Australian Aborigines, to be alleles at the Gc locus. Although both variants were originally detected by immunoelectrophoresis, the identification of certain phenotypes involving Gc Chippewa was only possible by means of the modified starch gel procedure described in the foregoing paper.

The ABO Blood Groups in Neoplastic Disease of the Ovary by R. H. OSBORNE and F. V. DE GEORGE.

As with salivary gland tumours, individuals with certain ovarian tumours were found to belong to

blood group A more often than would be expected by chance. Both benign growths such as dermoid cysts and malignant tumours such as papillary adenocarcinomata contributed to the group showing excess of blood group A and the authors, looking for features common to the group as a whole find two: (1) a papillary or cystic structure and (2) development of some atypical or extra-ovarian type of epithelium in these neoplasms. An unexpected finding was a four- to six-fold excess of *secondary* carcinomata of the ovary in women of blood group A relative to women of blood group O.

Paternal Age Effect for Cleft Lip and Palate by CHARLES M. WOOLF.

After adjustment for mothers' ages, a slight paternal age effect was found for 411 propiiti with hare lip with or without cleft palate.

Linkage of the β -Chain and δ -Chain Structural Genes of Human Hemoglobins by B. F. HORTON and T. H. J. HUISMAN.

Observations on a famliy group in which both Hb-S, a β -chain abnormality, and Hb-A₁, a δ -chain abnormality were transmitted provide further evidence in favour of close linkage between the two loci concerned.

The Study of Normal Variation in Man. I. Interrelations of Adiposity, Ancestry, and Blood Type by H. M. SLATIS and A. J. FINKEL.

Possible relationships between height, weight, blood type, month and year of birth and birth place and ancestry were sought in a group of 3,007 men and 702 women. No striking associations were found. Of the minor correlations, men of blood group B were very slightly taller than men of other blood groups and men born in the months December-March also had a minimal height advantage. It is noted that racial differences in blood type frequencies, body build etc. may produce spurious correlations in a large sample of mixed origin such as this.

Genetic Heterogeneity in Human Acatlasia by H. B. HAMILTON and J. V. NEEL.

In an inbred Japanese kindred three people were found to be acatalasemic but the known heterozygotes, that is the parents, were not always clearly distinguishable from normals on the basis of erythrocyte catalase activity, as is the case in most such families. A new gene may be responsible here, and the authors estimate a mean of 3.7-3.8 catalase units for carriers (compared with a value of 2.5 in the more usual form) with overlap between the carrier and normal distribution of values.

Biochemical Polymorphic Traits in a U.S. White and Negro Population by A. J. COOPER, *et al.*

Details are recorded of haemoglobin types, red cell antigens, haptoglobins and transferrins, and G6PD activity of more than 300 Negroes and 300 Whites. Other phenotype frequencies noted during this survey—made in connection with a study of cardiovascular disease—are to follow.

Selection, Gene Migration and Polymorphic Stability in a U.S. White and Negro Population by P. L. WORKMAN, B. S. BLUMBERG and A. J. COOPER.

Results reported in the previous paper are used to compare gene frequencies in American Negroes with those in West Africans. Gene migration (*m*) from the American White into the American Negro, equivalent to the admixture which has occurred between the two populations, is estimated for all the polymorphic traits. These fall into two groups, those, such as the red blood cell antigens with a small *m* value and a minority, including sickle cell haemoglobin and G6PD for which the *m* value is much greater. It is assumed that the *m* values of the first group (about 0.1) reflect primarily the effects of gene migration and that those of the second group (0.4 to 0.7) result from the combined effect of gene migration plus different adaptive values of the traits in the West African and American environments.

Further Evidence for Linkage Between the β and δ Loci Governing Human Hemoglobin and the Population Dynamics of Linked Genes by S. BOYER *et al.*

Including their own twenty-one examples of transmission of β and δ genes without recombination, and the five cases already described in this issue, the authors estimate that all together there have now been forty-one such instances in the literature. This lack of any crossing-over between the loci in forty-one certain opportunities for such cross-over is very good evidence in favour of close linkage. Further, family studies indicate that the genes for haemoglobins S and B, are always in the repulsion phase of linkage, that is there has as yet been no evidence to suggest a chromosome carrying Hb β^S Hb δ^{B^2} . The authors discuss the implications of this point.

Risk of Fetal Death to Mothers of Different ABO and Rh Blood Types by HOWARD B. NEWCOMBE.

Registered foetal deaths were divided into groups according to maternal ABO and Rh blood type. The relative incidence of foetal deaths for one maternal blood type as compared with another could then be calculated, no account being taken of any other factor such as cause of death etc. Differences in ABO type were associated with more foetal deaths than differences in Rh type. As expected, foetal deaths were most frequent for AB Rh negative mothers and least frequent for AB Rh positive mothers. Amongst other findings discussed is that, excluding the high-risk AB Rh negative

mothers, the risk of foetal death for mothers above age twenty-four increased uniformly with the number of antigenically active alleles missing from the maternal genotype.

A Familial Chromosome Variant in a Subject with Anomalous Sex Differentiation by H. L. COOPER and R. HERNITS.

In three members of the family described chromosome counts showed an asymmetry of chromosome pair No. 1, probably due to a segment of additional chromosomal material adjacent to the centromere of one member of the pair. Two carriers of this anomaly—both female—were phenotypically normal but the third, though reared as a female was a male pseudohermaphrodite with XY sex chromosome constitution. This may be a chromosome variant occasionally found among the clinically normal population.

A Method for Calculating the Inbreeding Coefficient II. Sex-linked Genes by A. KUDO and K. SAKAGUCHI.**The Linkage Relations of Hemophilia A and Hemophilia B (Christmas Disease) to the Xg Blood Group System** by S. H. DAVIES *et al.*

Estimated recombination fraction between Xg and haemophilia A is 0.4 and between Xg and haemophilia B is 0.5 (or 0.37 if one "odd" family is excluded). For the X chromosome the map order Xg-G6PD-deutan-haemophilia A is supported.

The Absence of Close Linkage of Methemoglobinemia and Blood Group Loci by E. M. SCOTT *et al.*

In each of thirty-three families at least one parent was heterozygous both for methemoglobinemia and for one or more of the following blood group systems: ABO, MNS, Rh, Duffy, Kidd, P and the haptoglobins. There was no evidence to suggest linkage between the locus under test and any of these "marker" loci.

HELEN BLYTH

EUGENICS QUARTERLY

September, 1963, Vol. 10, No. 3

Eugenics and the Races of Man by FREDRICK OSBORN,

In this article the author stresses that there is no sure evidence that human stocks to-day are either superior or inferior in genetic make-up to those of our ancestors of ten thousand years ago but our social inheritance is so complex that man's capacity to handle it is "now stretched to the limit." Great efforts should therefore be made to ensure that our genetic constitution does not deteriorate. The article then gives in tabloid form the difficulties which make it impossible to separate man into "Races" and makes a plea for equality of opportunity "for all people and races in the American melting pot."

PERIODICALS

"Colorblindness" Distribution in Britain, France and Japan: A Review with Notes on Selection Relaxation by RICHARD H. POST.

It appears that Britain, France and Japan are the only countries in the world where prevalence rates for sex-linked colour vision deficiency have been reported for relatively small geographical areas. This article uses the information "as a further test of the hypothesis that relaxed selection has played a role in the moulding of the distribution patterns."

Timing of First Pregnancy as a Factor in Divorce: A Cross-Cultural Analysis by HAROLD T. CHRISTENSEN

Three cultures are here considered: the sexually restricted Mormons of Utah, the more typical Americans of Indiana and the more permissive Scandinavian culture represented by Denmark. Marriage records and birth records were examined and then compared with divorce records in an attempt to establish correlations.

Brief Reports:

Colloquium on the X Chromosome and its Genetical Markers by ANNA MANNINI.

A report on the colloquium held at Basel from the 8th to the 10th April 1963 in which many angles of this subject were reported upon and discussed.

The Development of the Family Planning Programme in Taiwan by S. C. HSU.

Increasing population pressure and "the persistence of an active nucleus of persons" is removing the taboo against birth control and "child spacing."

Genetic Counseling for Down's Syndrome (Mongolism):

This is an authoritative and extremely valuable paper by SHELDON C. REED, of the Dight Institute for Human Genetics, for all concerned with advising mothers who have borne a mongoloid child, on the chances of a repetition.

Book Reviews:

Expanding Goals of Genetics in Psychiatry, Franz J. Kallmann (editor). Grune & Stratton. New York. 1962. Proceedings of the Anniversary Symposium of the Department of Medical Genetics. New York State Psychiatric Institute combined with the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychiatric Research Association.

Pharmacogenetics. Heredity and the Response to Drugs by Werner Kalow. W. B. Saunders Company. Philadelphia 1962. Described as a well-organized compendium of "widely scattered" literature relating hereditary factors to individual differences in drug effects.

Postwar Population Transfers, 1945-1955 by Joseph B. Schechtman. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia. 1962. Highly commended by the reviewer, who marvels at the scholarship involved and states that "the book will be consulted for years to come not only by demographers but by general students of contemporary European history."

Mental Health in the Metropolis: The Midtown Manhattan Study. Volume I. McGraw-Hill, New York 1962. The first of three volumes derived from a sixty-five page questionnaire administered by social workers and others. C. W. U.

POPULATION STUDIES

March, 1964. Vol. 17, No. 3.

Public Health in Britain in the Climate of the Nineteenth Century by T. FERGUSON.

An interesting historical account of progress in sanitation during an age of squalor and growing prosperity.

The Urban Background to Public Health Changes in England and Wales, 1900-50 by B. BENJAMIN.

A continuation of the history into modern times. Here the emphasis is upon a steady rise in the level of living of the population, upon curative services, upon education and upon an acceptance of the responsibility of the community for the health and welfare of the individual.

London as a Case Study by ALLEN DALEY and B. BENJAMIN.

The history illustrated with reference to the special circumstances of London, with its particular problems of density of population, which have been met by large-scale administrative and political organization.

Some Indicators of Differences between Urban and Rural Mortality in England and Wales and Scotland by D. V. GLASS.

A brief survey of changes in expectations of life at birth, and in infancy, during the past few decades and their relative values in different areas, which have altered considerably in the course of time.

The Next Forty Years in Public Health by THOMAS MCKEOWN.

The author examines the possibilities of "control of inheritance" (i.e. eugenics) but considers them unlikely to have much effect, at least during the remainder of the present century. His reasons are *inter alia* that the necessary knowledge of the genes that affect normal human characteristics does not at present exist, and that agreement as to aims and methods is unlikely to be reached. He therefore turns his attention to measures for the control of the physical environment, with special reference to

mental illness, disabilities established before birth and the problems of old age. Among these measures he mentions specially the unification of hospitals, the development of preventive personal health services and the strengthening of domiciliary medical care.

Health Conditions in Rural and Urban Areas of Developing Countries by GWENDOLINE JOHNSON.

The study of urban-rural differences in Asia, Africa and Latin America is made difficult by the poor quality and meagre supply of statistical data, but such differences as can be established are here associated with variations in nutrition, housing, sanitation and other environmental circumstances.

The Relevance of Western Experience to the Needs of Cities in Developing Countries by J. M. MACKINTOSH.

In spite of differences of circumstance, the knowledge of public health acquired by Western countries is

relevant to the needs of less developed areas, especially in relation to sewage disposal, housing and town planning.

The Distribution of Birth Intervals under a Class of Stochastic Fertility Models by MINDEL C. SHEPS and EDWARD B. PERRIN.

An interesting mathematical model analysis in which human reproduction is treated as a Markov renewal process. Allowance is incorporated for fecundability, miscarriage, stillbirth, post-partum infertility etc., and expressions are given for the mean and variance of the intervals to the first live birth and between births.

The journal concludes with a number of interesting reviews, including in particular (i) *The Growth of World Population* by the U.S.A. National Academy of Sciences and (ii) *Our Crowded Planet* edited by Fairfield Osborn. Both are reviewed by Dr. C. P. Blacker.

P. R. C.

**Annals of
Human Genetics**

Edited by L. S. PENROSE
Contents of Vol. 27, Part 3, March 1964

Inbreeding effect on mortality and morbidity in South Brazilian populations. F. A. MARÇALLO, N. FREIRE-MAIA, J. B. C. AZEVEDO and I. A. SIMÕES.
The inheritance of congenital tritanopia with the report of an extensive pedigree. G. H. HENRY, B. L. COLE and J. NATHAN.
Taste response and poliomyelitis. N. BRAND.
Comparisons of regression constants fitted by maximum likelihood to four common transformations of binomial data. A. F. NAYLOR.
An investigation into the fertility rates of mentally ill patients. KATE MACSORLEY.
Distances which involve satellited chromosomes in metaphase preparations. MAXINE MERRINGTON and L. S. PENROSE.
Birth weight and some other factors in relation to infant survival. A study on an Indian sample. K. JAYANT.
Xg and g-6-pd in Israeli families: an addendum. RUTH SANGER and A. ADAM.
Genetics of the a-b ridge count on the human palm. JOSE PONS.
Finger-print patterns in mongolism. SARAH B. HOLT.
Genetic studies of the syndrome of congenital deafness and simple goitre. A. K. THOULD and E. F. SCOWEN.
The London Conference on "The Normal Human Karyotype" 28th-30th August, 1963.
Reviews.

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From the Press Cuttings

“ENGLAND AND WALES

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL says that the population of England and Wales may increase by 18 millions (about 37 per cent) during the next 40 years, reaching a total of 65 millions in the year 2003.

This prediction is in the Registrar-General's Quarterly Return for the December Quarter of 1963. . . .

The population, it is suggested, will increase by an average of 370,000 a year for the next 20 years, and perhaps rather faster after that. Among the factors behind this expected increase are:

1. The tendency to marry earlier.
2. A slow rise in the average size of families.
3. A steady decline in infant mortality (20.9 per 1,000 live births in 1963, compared with 21.6 in 1962 and 26.8 in 1953).

According to the forecasts, the proportion of the population which consists of men of working age (between the ages of 15 and 65) will remain constant at about 32 per cent. There will continue to be about 15 per cent of men and women of pensionable age . . . but the proportion of the population under 15 will rise from the present figure of 23 per cent to 26 per cent by 2003.

The birth rate has been rising since 1955 and last year reached a figure of 18.2 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 15.5 in 1953.”

—*Guardian*, April 24th, 1964.

“ASIA'S POPULATION OUTGROWING FOOD SUPPLIES

ASIA'S FOOD PRODUCTION falls far short of the demands of its growing population, says a U.N. report prepared by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East . . .

Between 1955 and 1961, food production increased by 3.6 per cent a year. Since, the annual rate of increase has been only 0.5 per cent while population increases averaged 2.4 per cent a year.

Deterioration of the food situation in 1963 was most marked in India, Pakistan and South Korea, all of which had bad harvests. It was less marked in Malaysia, Afghanistan and Nepal. There were comparatively good harvests in Formosa, Ceylon, Indonesia and Persia.

Communist China made a further recovery from earlier agricultural failures.”

—*New Daily*, March 2nd, 1964.

“WITH ITS 440 million people (1961 census) India today is second in population and seventh in land area in the world.

The strain that this explosive population growth has imposed upon food resources is worrying Indian planners.

According to experts, India's population will reach 520 million by 1971.

In the 1962 fiscal year the population increased by 9,000,000, but food grains production fell from 79,700,000 tons in 1961 to 77,500,000 tons.

Dr. Rao listed three proposals for checking the population explosion:

1. Raising the age of marriage for girls to 21 or 22 from the present average of 15.
2. Spacing out of children with, if possible, none during the first five years of marriage.
3. Rigid limits to the size of the family.”

—*Evening Standard*, March 23rd, 1964.

PISUM SATIVUM

“HINDU MEDICAL LORE has long pointed to peas—the ordinary garden or culinary pea—*Pisum sativum*—as having a contraceptive effect, and for a quarter of a century systematic studies have been carried on, mainly in India, which S. N. Sanyal of Calcutta reviews in the October 1963 issue of *Medical Digest* (Bombay). He concludes that the facts are firmly established; that the essential element is m-xylohydroquinone now produced synthetically; that administration is easy, only twice a month; that every criticism concerning possible toxicity and all sorts of side effects has been answered successfully; and that the very low cost should lead to a wide use of it until the ‘ideal contraceptive’ is found.”*

—*Family Life*, April 1964

* *Pisum sativum*: Dr. Sanyal's work was discussed at some length in the October 1955 number of *THE EUGENICS REVIEW* (47, 141-3).

“BIRTH-RATE CUT BREEDS PROBLEMS

IT WAS ONLY a matter of time before an actor got some publicity out of the family-planning business. They are in on everything else: anti-

apartheid stand-ups and H-bomb sit-downs, and marches and meetings for this and that. Now Mr. Spike Milligan is heard urging the distribution of contraceptives.

Curiously enough in one country, at least, he would be met with little enthusiasm. That is Japan where they have carried out birth-control and legal abortions to such effect that the country now faces a new series of problems. . . .

Labour, which has always been a drug on the Japanese market, is now at a premium. Family patterns are being disrupted, as is the structure of the population.

Japanese workers who retire at present when they reach 55, will probably not be able to do so in the future until the country becomes more streamlined technologically, since the labour force is becoming increasingly middle-aged.

It is ironic, therefore, to recall the conference of the Economic Commission on Asia and the Far East held in Delhi in December at which Mr. Nehru said that India's economic progress had been hampered already by growth of population . . .

India's increase in population is estimated to be 2.4 per cent a year—or nearly half as much again as the world average—while Japan's is now 0.9 per cent.

But Japan's latest problems may, paradoxically, have a beneficial influence on her economy. Much of her small industry has relied too exclusively on cheap and ever-ready labour. With the falling-off in population those factories which cannot modernise and put in labour-saving machinery will collapse, leaving a new growth of efficient and competitive industry."

—*Scotsman*, February 17th, 1964.

"SPLIT-MIND PARENTS

AN ALARMING INCREASE in births involving schizophrenic parents in New York State is reported by Dr. Franz Kallman, a leading psychiatrist.

A study in the State's mental hospitals shows that within twenty years, the reproductive rate of women suffering from this form of mental disorder increased by 86 per cent. This compared with 25 per cent by the general population."

—*Daily Telegraph*, March 2nd, 1964

"NEW VIRUSES AS THE POPULATION GROWS

ATLANTIC CITY, APRIL 7

THERE IS A population explosion among viruses that infect man, a United States Govern-

ment scientist told a medical meeting here to-day. New kinds of viruses are appearing constantly, he said, largely as a result of man's population explosion and the increased mobility of people to-day.

Because of this factor, new viruses that emerge from mutations in, or "matings" between, old viruses have a better chance now of finding a susceptible person to infect—and so to persist and change again—than before.

The scientist estimated that there are more opportunities in one week to-day for new viruses to appear than there would have been in 1,000 years of time less than a century ago.

This situation was described . . . by Dr. Robert J. Huebner, director of the laboratory of infectious diseases at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda.

Dr. Huebner noted that, fortunately, the vast majority of viruses do not cause disease. Because many do, however, medical measures must be taken against them, and in as much as so few drugs have been found effective against viral infections, this means that vaccines must be developed to prevent infection."

—*The Times*, April 8th, 1964

ORDERS

"IT IS BECOMING fashionable (Lord Huntingdon said it the other day) to argue that it is our duty to have small families. Various reasons are given: world over-population, the importance of keeping up a high standard of living, the danger of juvenile delinquency in large families and so on.

The most important point, of course, is that the argument only applies to *other people*. It is doubtful how far those who argue like this would like it if people came along and told them how many children they ought to have themselves.

Another point is that although the world may be over-populated, it is not over-populated with British or European people. Australia and New Zealand, for instance, are dangerously under-populated with them, a fact which will become more important as history continues on its far from pacific course.

If we are going to order people about, it might be better to order them to have large families, and instead of ordering them to pile up in a huge garden-suburb in the south-eastern corner of England, order them to go and populate the empty spaces of Australia and New Zealand."

PETER SIMPLE.

—*Daily Telegraph*, May 7th, 1964

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